

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A camera comprising:

an imaging part provided with an imaging optical system and an imaging device, an image of a subject being formed on a light receiving surface of the imaging device through the imaging optical system, the imaging device photoelectrically converting the image into an image signal;

a signal processor for processing the image signal sent from the imaging device so as to produce image data;

an information reader for reading identification information from an external storage medium;

a communicating device for communicating with a server through a network, the server being designated in accordance with the read identification information; and

a data transmitter for transmitting the image data to the server.

2. The camera as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a communicational condition evaluating device for determining whether condition of the communication of the communicating device with the server is satisfactory; and

a communication postponing device for, if the communicational condition evaluating device determines that the condition is unsatisfactory, postponing the communication of the communicating device with the server until the communicational condition evaluating device determines that the condition becomes satisfactory.

3. The camera as defined in claim 1, further comprising an image display for displaying a first image captured by the imaging part and a second image represented by image data distributed from the server.

4. The camera as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a camera communicating device for communicating with at least one additional cameras reading the same identification information that the camera reads; and

a cooperative mode designating device for designating the camera in either of a master mode and a slave mode with respect to the additional cameras;

wherein the camera supervises the additional camera through the camera communicating device when the camera is in the master mode;

wherein the camera is supervised by one of the additional cameras through the camera communicating device when the camera is in the slave mode, the one of the additional cameras being designated in the master mode by the cooperative mode designating device thereof.

5. The camera as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an identification information storage device for storing identification information of a plurality of persons read by the information reader; and

a communication controller for controlling the communicating device and the data transmitter such that the communicating device communicates with the server designated in accordance with the read identification information of each of the persons and the data transmitter transmits the image data to the designated server.

6. The camera as defined in claim 1, further comprising an information adding device for adding the read identification information to the image data.

7. The camera as defined in claim 6, further comprising an image data retrieving device for retrieving the image data in accordance with the added identification information.

8. A camera comprising: ~

an imaging part provided with an imaging optical system and an imaging device, an image of a subject being formed on a light receiving surface of the imaging device through the imaging optical system, the imaging device photoelectrically converting the image into an image signal;

a signal processor for processing the image signal sent from the imaging device to produce image data;

an information reader for reading identification information from an external storage medium;

a nonvolatile storage device for storing identification information of an owner of the camera;

a user's identification information setting device for setting the owner's identification information as user's identification information if the information reader reads no identification information, and setting the identification information read by the information reader as the user's identification information if the information reader reads the identification information;

a communicating device for communicating with a server through a network, the server being designated in accordance with the user's identification information; and

a data transmitter for transmitting the image data to the server.

9. The camera as defined in claim 8, further comprising a user's identification information erasing device for erasing the user's identification information when the camera is turned off.

10. The camera as defined in claim 8, further comprising a user's identification information updating device for, when the information reader reads a new identification information, erasing the set user's identification information and setting the new identification information as the user's identification information.

11. The camera as defined in claim 8, further comprising a user's identification information confirmation device for, if the set user's identification information is other than the owner's identification information, requiring resetting of the user's identification information when a first preset time has elapsed after the setting of the set user's identification information, and erasing the set user's identification information when a second preset time has elapsed without the resetting after the requirement.